

REMARKS

The Office Action, at 1, states that the application contains claims directed to two patentably distinct species specified by:

Species 1: Figures 9-16

Species 2: Figures 17-20

According to the Office Action, the discussion of Figures 1-8 and 21-23 appears to be relevant to all Species.

The Office Action does not identify generic claims.

Applicants traverse. The Office Action does not specify claims by which two or more independent and distinct inventions are claimed. According to 37 CFR § 1.142(a):

If two or more independent and distinct inventions are claimed in a single application, the examiner in an Office action will require the applicant in the reply to that action to elect an invention to which the claims will be restricted, this official action being called a requirement for restriction.

Applicants nevertheless make an election of claims according to a claimed invention, as required in 37 CFR § 1.142(a), and identify figures applicable to the elected claims.

Applicants elect claims 6-14, 21-29, 31 and 32.

These claims provide, among other things, means of enabling the image sensor to compensate for conduction variations of respective transistors by changing their gate voltage to a value higher than a normal value for taking video.

Figures 1 – 20 illustrate common embodiments of the elected claims. As described in the U.S. Patent Application publication No. 20040135913, (see ¶s [0090], [0097] and [0104]), Figs. 9 – 13 show how to compensate output characteristics of image sensor circuits each representing a unit pixel when output characteristics of respective pixel signals have the same shape in a non-

logarithmic response region WA but are different in gradient in a logarithmic response region WB.

Figures 14 - 16 illustrate how to compensate the image sensor circuits when the output characteristics of respective pixel signals have the same gradient in the logarithmic response region WB but are different in shape in the non-logarithmic response region WA.

Figures 17 – 18 show how to compensate output characteristics of respective image sensor circuits when the output characteristics of respective sensor circuit signals have different gradients in the logarithmic response region WB and the output characteristics of the sensor signals are different in shape in the non-logarithmic response region WA.

Figure 19 shows output characteristics of a light sensor circuit, which indicate a difference between a light sensor output signal obtained by turning on a logarithmic characteristic converting transistor and a light sensor output signal obtained in a dark state.

Figure 20 shows output characteristics of a light sensor circuit which compares a difference between a light sensor output signal obtained by turning on a logarithmic characteristic converting transistor to be conductive and a light sensor output signal obtained in a dark state when the sensor was initialized for preventing the occurrence of an afterimage (i.e., afterglow).

Applicants therefore submit that all figures pertain to the invention of the elected claims.

CONCLUSION

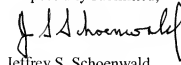
Election of claims 6-14, 21-29, 31 and 32 has been made with traverse in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.142(a).

Fees for the extension of time are paid by electronic credit card transaction. If the Commissioner determines that any additional fees or refunds are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees due or credit refunds to Deposit Account 50-0337. Please refer to Attorney Docket 7272-131/10312233 in referring to any charges or refunds.

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Respectfully submitted,



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